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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The transmission equipment according to ~~claim 1~~^{claim 4},
wherein the switch board ~~and~~, the plurality of interface boards, and dedicated interface
boards are respectively inserted to slots mounted on a shelf frame so as to interconnect mutually
through a backboard provided on the shelf frame.

3. (Currently Amended) The transmission equipment according to ~~claim 1~~^{claim 4},
wherein the packet conforms to either IP (Internet Protocol), ATM (Asynchronous Transfer
Mode) or Frame Relay.

4. (Currently Amended) The transmission equipment according to claim 1,
Transmission equipment comprising:
a switch board having a cross-connect portion for making a multiplexed packet signal to
branch to predetermined paths;
a plurality of interface boards for interfacing the cross-connect portion with a multiplexed
signal being transmitted on a path; and
further comprising a plurality of dedicated interface boards each having a path switch
function of demultiplexing, which demultiplexes the transmitted multiplexed packet signal to
each packet to route demultiplexed packets and routes each of the demultiplexed packets packet
signal to a predetermined path,

wherein each of the plurality of dedicated interface boards includes an extension interface so that a packet to be directed to a path accommodated in the self a first of the plurality of dedicated interface boards is routed to a predetermined path in the self first dedicated interface board, and that a packet to be directed to a path not accommodated in the self first dedicated interface board is routed to another the other dedicated interface board accommodating the path concerned.

5. (Currently Amended) The transmission equipment according to claim 1-claim 4, wherein the dedicated interface board boards each having the path switch function of routing the demultiplexed packet signal packets to a predetermined path is redundant in configuration having a working side and a protection side configured to have a working side and a protection side, to transfer an identical signal so that a same demultiplexed packet is transferred to both the working side and the protection side of the dedicated interface board by a 1:2 connection function of a cross-connect portion in the switch board, when a multiplexed signal is transferred from the interface board to the dedicated interface board having the path switch function, using a 1:2 connection produced by a cross-connect portion in the switch board.

6. (Currently Amended) The transmission equipment according to claim 5, wherein when a packet signal is transferred from either the working side or protection side of the dedicated interface board to transfer to the switch board through the packet signal from either the working side or the protection side of the dedicated interface board is connected to the cross-connect portion, is selected by a 2:1 selector in the path switch function of the switch board.